
VI. *Description of the Plectrophanes Lapponica; a Species lately discovered in the British Islands. By Prideaux John Selby, Esq. F.L.S. Communicated by the Zoological Club of the Linnean Society.*

Read February 7, 1826.

THE following description and figure (TAB. I.) of the Lapland Bunting (the *Fringilla lapponica* of Linnæus, the *Emberiza calcarata* of Temminck), is taken from a specimen in the valuable cabinet of my friend N. A. Vigors, Esq. This individual, which from its plumage appears to be a young bird, was found in Leadenhall-market among some Larks, which had been sent up to London from Cambridgeshire, and was preserved by a respectable naturalist*, from whose collection it afterwards passed into that of Mr. Vigors. As a species hitherto unnoticed in Britain, I have great pleasure in adding it to the list of our Fauna, which within the last few years has become enriched by several new and rare species.

* Mr. George Weighton, of the City-Road; whose services to science as a collector have already been recorded in these *Transactions*. See vol. xiv. p. 561.

A second individual of this species, taken alive in the neighbourhood of Brighton, and kept caged for some months, as a variety of Lark, is now in the possession of Mr. Yarrell of Ryder-street. It differs from the specimen described in being generally of a darker colour, the spots upon the breast and neck are also more distinct, but the disposition of the markings the same. This difference probably arises from age or sex, or it may be the result of confinement. To the last-mentioned cause may also be attributed the slight elongation and rough exterior of the bill.

Ordo.



Plectrophanes Laponicus



Ordo. INSESSORES. *Vigors in Linn. Trans.*

Trib. CONIROSTRES. *Cuv.*

Fam. FRINGILLIDÆ. *Vig.*

Genus. PLECTROPHANES. *Meyer.*

Rostrum breve, conicum; *culmine* rotundato, apice subcoarctatâ, basi inter plumas frontis extendente; *naribus* ovalibus, plumosis, partim membranâ tectis. *Mandibularum* marginibus introrsum inclinantibus, a se deorsum paululum dissidentibus, superiore angustiore intus medio subgibbo.

Alæ acuminatæ, ad medium caudæ extendentes, *remigum* primâ et secundâ ferè æqualibus longissimis; secundæ et tertiæ pogoniis externis submarginatis.

Cauda mediocris, subforficata.

Pedes subgraciles; ungue postico producto plus minusve recto.

Lapponica. P. capite nigro, superciliis albis, corpore testaceo nigroque vario, collo suprâ ferrugineo, duabus rectricibus externis maculâ albâ cuneiformi notatis, ungue postico subrecto digitoque longiore.

Fringilla lapponica. *Linn. Syst. i. p. 317. 1. Lath.*

Ind. Orn. v. i. p. 440. Gmel. i. p. 900.

Fringilla montana. *Briss. tom. iii. p. 160.*

———— calcarata. *Pall. It. p. 710. 20.*

Le Grand Montain. *Buff. Ois. v. iv. p. 134.*

Lapland Finch. *Arct. Zool. ii. no. 259. Lath.*

Syn. iii. p. 263.

Emberiza calcarata. *Temm. Man. d'Ornith. v. i. p. 324.*

JUVEN.

JUVEN. *Rostrum* fusco-brunneum ad basin luteum. Totum *corpus* suprâ luteo-cinereum fusco maculatum. *Supercilia* lutea, *genæ* luteæ fusco mixtæ; *gula* lateraque *colli* sordide alba fuscis duabus striis. *Jugulum* *pectus*que sordide alba fusco-maculata. *Abdomen* albidum, lateribus fusco-striatis. *Tectrices* alarum *remiges*que *secundariæ* fuscæ, marginibus ferrugineis. *Remiges* *rectrices*que albedo marginatæ, his duabus extimis maculâ albidâ cuneiformi notatis. *Pedes* brunneo-fusci; *ungue hallucis* ferè recto, digito longiore.

In Mus. Dom. Vigors.

DESCR. *Bill* yellowish-brown, palest towards the base of the under *mandible*. *Head* and all the upper parts of the *body* pale wood-brown tinged with yellowish-gray, the shafts of the feathers blackish-brown. Greater *wing-coverts* and secondary *quills* blackish-brown deeply margined with chestnut- or orange-brown, the tips white. *Quills* dusky-brown, paler at the edge. Above the eyes a broad streak of pale wood-brown. *Cheeks* and *ear-coverts* wood-brown, the latter mixed with black. From the corners of the under *mandible* on each side of the throat a streak of blackish-brown. *Throat* yellowish-white. Lower part of *neck* and *breast* dirty-white with numerous dusky spots. *Belly* and *vent* white. *Flanks* with oblong dusky streaks. *Tail* dusky, the outer feather with the exterior web, and half of the interior, dirty-white; the second with a small wedge-shaped white spot near the tip. *Legs* and *toes* brown; *claws* not much hooked, the posterior nearly straight, and longer than the *toe*.

By Dr. Latham and several other writers, this bird is placed in the genus *Fringilla* of Linnæus, probably on account of the form of its bill, which is comparatively shorter and thicker than
that